

# Take A Warrior Fishing

## Event

The Corps of Engineers and the Department of Veterans Affairs, in conjunction with the CAST Foundation and local sponsors, invited all of our local veterans, active duty service men and women, and their families to Caesar Creek Lake for a day of fishing. The veterans got a chance to fish with experts, take part in a sponsored raffle, and eat lunch sponsored by JTM.

The event started at 8:00AM on May 17<sup>th</sup>. It was forecasted to be a cold, cloudy day and the forecast turned out to be correct. Veterans and volunteers braved the chilly weather to fish on Caesar Creek Lake. Fishing ended early at noon and lunch started at 12:30PM with the first of the two bands starting at 1:30PM.



## Veterans

Funds were raised to accommodate 68 veterans for the event with another 22 Veterans on standby. There were also 42 family members attending the event with the 90 total veterans. The first 68 Veterans received free fishing poles, a free T-shirt, and a tackle box with tackle and supplies inside. All participants were given a free meal as well.

Veterans were present from the Dayton and Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs and Project Healing Waters (Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus chapters).

## Partnerships

The three main sponsors for the event were the C.A.S.T. Foundation, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Project Healing Waters. C.A.S.T. Foundation supplied the event with 68 fishing poles, 136 t-shirts, 68 baseball caps, and 68 tackle boxes. The Department of Veterans Affairs



provided drinks for 200 people, coordinated lunch with JTM and Golden Lamb of Lebanon, and provided magnetic flashlights, advertising, and volunteers for the event. Project Healing Waters provide volunteers for the event and fly fishing demos for participants.



### Sponsors

Sponsors (including Wal-Mart, Muskies Inc. Kentucky Chapter, VFW, Lebanon Ford and Grumman-Northrop) donated a total of \$9,358.22 for the event including a gift pass to the Woodhouse Salon and Spa. JTM donated staff and food for 200 plus people to eat. Bass Pro Shop strung together all of the fishing poles given away to the vets.

### Volunteers

We had a total of 75 volunteers (50 registration and 25 boat captains) provide the Take A Warrior Fishing event 525 hours of volunteer service. This saved the federal government \$11,786.25.



A Volunteer from Project Healing Waters taking a picture of one of our Veterans who caught a fish with his fly rod.

A group of Veterans with one of the Project Healing Waters volunteers in Tailwater learning how to attach the fly.







Volunteers at the Veterans registration table at the Caesar Creek Lake Learning Center.



One of the Veterans Affairs mobile units with the Take a Warrior Fishing banner.

The line starts for lunch at the JTM tent awaiting delicious BBQ





A few participants and their family members making their way out to fish